This document has been written to help inform Young People of the future of Youth Services as funded by Bristol City Council. We are keen for Young People to tell us what they think. Your feedback will help shape the future of Youth & Play Services!

The document contains some questions we would like you to consider and there is an online survey where you can provide us with your thoughts:

https://bristol.citizenspace.com/people/targeted-youth-services-commissioning-plan/
Introduction

Bristol City Council pays for Youth and Play Services for children and young people aged 8-19 (and up to 24 for those with learning difficulties) in Bristol. These services are called “Bristol Youth Links”. We currently spend £4.2 million a year on these services to help children and young people to increase skills, gain confidence, and help them back into school or college. We do this by giving money to organisations like Creative Youth Network, Learning Partnership West, Watershed, and Bristol Drugs Project to run group activities, work with a young person individually, or provide information online. The current contracts, (a written agreement between these organisations and the council), will come to an end in 2018 so we need to decide how to spend the money between 2018 and 2023.

This document will explain why we want to spend the money, how much money we have to spend, what we think we need to spend it on, what skills staff need to help children and young people, and what difference we think spending the money will make. We have already been working with a group of Young People who are going to help decide how we should spend the money but we would also like to ask the children and young people of Bristol to help us decide what we should do.

Question 1:

We currently call the services Bristol Youth Links, do you think we should keep this name (please tick box)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t mind

If no do you have an alternative suggestion?
Why we spend money on youth services

We spend money on youth services because we think it is important for children and young people to gain skills which will help them deal with the challenges of growing up. We believe by providing services, which support children and young people in the earlier stages of their development, we will be better able to help them build themselves more prosperous futures (we call this ‘early intervention’).

There are also some things the Council has to do as they have been instructed to do so by the government (this is called a statutory duty). Those things are:

1. Provide access to, and advertise youth and play activities
2. Provide support to Young People to ensure they can be involved in Education, Employment and Training.

What we know that has helped us to come up with this draft plan

Last year some organisations came together to write a document called Our Journey Together: Young People’s Priorities in Bristol. It was written after asking young people and their workers what they thought was good or bad about growing up in Bristol. As a result, they thought of some priorities that would help organisations think about how they might design their activities to help children and young people have good physical and mental health. The Bristol City Youth Council helped too and the priorities decided on were:

- Enabling children and young people to have a **healthy body, healthy mind**
- Making sure children and young people feel **active and safe in their communities**
- Ensuring children and young people can access a **Curriculum for life (this is the skills you need to help you grow up successfully)**.
- Work together for a **children and young people friendly city**
We also looked at lots of information about the number of children and young people living in Bristol. We found that there are lots of inequalities in Bristol, and that depending on where you lived meant you may not have such good access to education, jobs or good health. The map “The most deprived areas of the city” (see below) highlights areas of greatest inequality.

We asked organisations working with young people what services should look like and what they should do over the next 4 years. They said children and young people should help plan these services. They also said that services should be local and work well with other support services such as Social Services, Early Help, family centres, other community services and schools.

**So here’s our draft plan!**

**How much do we have to spend?**

The amount of money available to spend is £3.3 million per year. Although this sounds like a lot of money, it has to do a lot of things so we have to be careful how we spend it. It won’t reach all of the children and young people who live in Bristol, so we need to decide where it should be spent to get the best value for money.

**What we think we should spend it on**

**Targeted Youth & Play Services**

We propose to target support to children and young people who need a bit more support. We will do this because children and young people who are more vulnerable can miss out on the opportunities of their peers, they are more likely to be isolated, less likely to be healthy, less likely to attend school and to remain in education when older, less likely to gain qualifications, and more likely to be victims of crime or to be young offenders.
The most deprived areas of the city

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Area Name</th>
<th>No. of 8-19 year olds</th>
<th>% of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bishport Avenue</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bishport Avenue East</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Easton Road</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fulford Road North</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Harcive</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Inns Court</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Barton Hill</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bishport Avenue West</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cabot Circus</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Crow Lane</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fair Furlong</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Filwood Broadway</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Four Acres</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gill Avenue</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ilminster Avenue West</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lawrence Weston Parade</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Redcliffe South</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Southmead Central</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>St Jude</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>St Pauls City Road</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>St Pauls Grosvenor Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>St Philips</td>
<td>423</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Stapleton Road</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Stokes Croft West</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Throgmorton Road</td>
<td>337</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Whitchurch Lane</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Bedminster East</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Burnbush</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Burnbush Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>East Hillfields</td>
<td>390</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Glyn Vale</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Greenbank</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Ilminster Avenue East</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Lawrence Weston South</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Lawrence Weston West</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Leinster Avenue</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Lockleaze South</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Marksbury Road</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Newman</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>St Agnes</td>
<td>300</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Trymside</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Whitchurch Park West</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children and young people can become vulnerable for many reasons, an example of which could be that they are a Young Carer. A Young Carer could spend a lot of their time looking after someone, this can be a very rewarding role but it could also lead to anxiety, isolation, taking time off from school to fulfil caring duties. In this example Youth services could support that young person by helping them to build a healthy balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside of caring. This could include putting them in touch with additional services such as the Young Carers service if they need more help.

Whilst we propose to target support for children & young people from geographical areas of inequality we do recognise that there will be children or young people who will need support that do not live within these areas. Also, there are 42 areas identified on the map. It is unlikely that each area will have its own comprehensive set of services, it is more likely that services will need to support children and young people from several areas so choosing the location and types of support will be important.

We propose to share the available money for services differently across the city based on addressing inequality and by focussing on areas where there isn't currently a lot of other local youth and play services. We have divided the map into three larger areas; North, East Central & South. The table below shows you how we propose to divide up the money available to each of these areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage of total funds allocated to the area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citywide Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Support

Individual Support

The area based services will need to work with some young people that the council or other organisations say they need to work with as they are concerned about them. Therefore the support will need to be focussed on these young people before it is focussed on others. In 2015/16 there were around 400 children and young people who were asked to be supported by the Council’s Early Help and Social Care Services.

An example of what this might look like:

A young person could be identified by Early Help as needing a bit of support because they are not getting on very well at home, there are lots of arguments between the young person and their parents. The young person chooses not to go out and has been self-harming. Early Help could refer this young person to a service so that they could help that young person. Maybe all this young person needs is someone to talk to or maybe there are some underlying issues that the worker could help identify and support that young person with, for example offering some mediation between the young person and their parents.

Sexual health and Drug and Alcohol Support

There are some young people who need some more support in helping them to have healthy relationships or help them to know about the risks of drugs and alcohol. In 2015/16 we supported 700 young people with these services. These young people have had the opportunity to talk to a worker individually if they (or another adult) think they are at risk of getting pregnant, or may be at risk of getting into an unhealthy relationship, or are starting to use drugs or alcohol. The young person would only see the worker around 8 times, but during those conversations, they could talk through lots of things that may help the young person get back to having healthy relationships and feeling good about themselves, help the young person to understand the risks and make informed choices with taking drugs and alcohol.
Employment, Education & Training Support

At the end of 2015 we knew that there were 259 young people in Bristol not in education, employment or training. There were an additional 594 young people that we did not know the status of (for example, some of these may have moved out of the area or they could be caring for other family members and therefore unable to be involved in education, training or employment, or they might be education employment or training but we didn’t know this because we had lost touch with them). We need to confirm the status of these young people so that we can support them should they need it. The number of young people not in employment, education or training in Bristol is higher than the national average so we will have to work hard at getting more young people the support they need to help them into employment, education or training.

Youth & Play Support

We currently support about 3,000 children and young people at any one time to access positive activities and play activities. We propose to fund organisations to deliver activities for children and young people.

An example of what activities might look like:

A service that runs outdoor activities from a local park, this includes all kinds of activities like shelter building and bush craft. Children and young people who attend this have the opportunity to be active but also learn new skills and learn about the environment. The service would also give some of the more experienced children and young people extra responsibilities such as helping with the cooking and building fires. This will have a positive impact on the children and young people’s health and well-being.

Question 2:

Have you ever used a Youth Service?

e.g., gone to a youth club, adventure playground or spoken with a youth worker about things that are bothering you? (Please tick box)
**If you have, how did you find out about them? (Please tick box)**

- [ ] Friends
- [ ] Family member
- [ ] Adult (e.g. teacher)
- [ ] Promotion event (e.g. event at school or open day)
- [ ] Websites e.g. Rife or Go Places to Play
- [ ] Social Media
- [ ] Leaflets or Flyers
- [ ] Other - Please say _________________________________

**Question 3**

What would stop you or your friends from taking part in youth or play activities?
For example, how far you had to travel, how you could get there, caring duties, fear of bullying, not interested in the activities, cost, how friendly the staff are.

Please provide detail:

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Question 4
What types of activity would you want to take part in? Please rank in order of preference (1 to 7 – 1 being the most important)

☐ Physical activities (e.g. team sports, running, dancing, skateboarding, games)

☐ Artistic activities (e.g. musical, theatrical, writing, painting, film-making, vblogging, photography, crafts)

☐ Outdoor pursuits (e.g. kayaking, climbing, bush craft, walking, biking)

☐ Discussion groups (e.g. current affairs, politics, promoting children and young people’s views)

☐ Supporting personal interests (e.g. helping to develop young people’s groups like coding or maker clubs)

☐ Volunteering

☐ Other - Please say ____________________________

Question 5
Is there anything you would like support with? (Please tick)

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you said yes please tell us what you would like support with: (please tick all that apply)

☐ Personal skills development (e.g. improving self-confidence, communication skills, self-awareness, problem solving, teamwork, negotiation)

☐ Practical life skills development (e.g. cooking, money management, help to travel independently)

☐ Develop healthy lifestyle skills (e.g. healthy eating, sugar smart, mental health)

☐ Work-related activities (e.g. work tasters, workplace behaviour, CV and interview skills)
Making Services Inclusive

We recognise that there are some things that stop children and young people from using services. We also know that there are some groups of children and young people who are historically more vulnerable than others. We will ask the organisations who are running activities to make them inclusive and available to children and young people with additional needs or vulnerabilities. Vulnerable groups might include:

- Disabled children & young people
- Hearing impaired children & young people
- Young Carers
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ+) young people
- Children in Care and Care Leavers
- Black and ethnic minority children & young people (including refugees and asylum seekers)
- Gypsy Roma Traveller young people
- Young Offenders

We hope that the needs of children and young people from the above groups can be met by attending one of the mainstream projects. If the needs of children and young people cannot be met by the regular groups there may be a need for some more specific services for some young people. For example, currently there are some Young Carer sessions and sessions for deaf children and young people. This will need to be considered within the amount of money available.

Online Signposting

One of the things we have to do is advertise Youth & Play activities for children and young people. We currently do this by advertising activities on the following websites; Rife and go places to play. Adults working with children and young people have told us they want to be able to access
information online so they can help children and young people find projects or activities. One way we could do this is by continuing to have a website that advertises all of the activities. Young people have told us they access information via social media.

Letting us know what you think of services in the future

We need to make sure that the services we fund benefit children and young people. We can do this by:

- Counting how many young people go to activities and how often
- Visiting the services to see the quality of the services for ourselves
- Counting the number of young people who go from not being in Education, Employment or Training to being in Education, Employment or Training

But what we would really like to know is how much children and young people like the services they attend and do they understand the benefits of attending them and do they have suggestions for the future.

**Question 6**

How would you prefer to tell us about our services?

Please rank in order of preference (1 to 7 – 1 being the most important)

- Tell workers face to face
- Tell Bristol City Youth Council
- Suggestion boxes at venues
- Feedback forms
How can you let us know what you think of our plan?

You can submit answer to the questions asked in this document by completing an online questionnaire. It can be found by going to the following web-link: https://bristol.citizenspace.com/people/targeted-youth-services-commissioning-plan/

Alternatively you could email us your thoughts: byl@bristol.gov.uk

The deadline for feedback is the 27th of April 2017.

There will also be a Young Person’s Event that will take place on the 29th March 2017 5.30-7.30pm at City Hall, College Green, Bristol. You can book a place for this event here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-bcc-targeted-youth-services-young-persons-event-tickets-31634514685

After we have everyone’s comments, this plan will change to include things people have said, and then we will ask organisations to apply for the money.
Documents can also be made available on request on tape or audio CD, Braille, large print and British Sign Language DVD.